

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8898

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UNCLAS SOFIA 2137

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OEXC (STOITCHKOV, NIKIFOR), BU

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL VISITOR GRANT NOMINATION

REF: SOFIA 1907

1. P&C OFFICER DELIVERED INVITATION LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR TO STOITCHKOV, WHO ACCEPTED WITH PLEASURE. HE PROPOSES ARRIVE U.S. SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, AND WISHES BEGIN HIS PROGRAM, STRESSING PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION, ON MONDAY, JANUARY 13.

2. PERSONAL: STOITCHKOV CONFIRMED BIODATA IN REFTEL. HE IS GRADUATE OF KARL MARX HIGHER INSTITUTE OF ECONOMICS IN SOFIA, BUT HAS NOT DONE POSTGRADUATE WORK. HE SPEAKS RUSSIAN AND SOME GERMAN, BUT HAS NO ENGLISH. ASIDE FROM 10 MONTHS IN GDR, HE HAS MADE SHORT VISITS TO VARIOUS COUNTRIES IN EAST AND WEST EUROPE, PLUS TURKEY, BUT HAS NOT BEEN ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD, INCLUDING THE U.S. HE HAS RECEIVED A NUMBER OF AWARDS FROM GOB. NO DIETARY RESTRICTIONS, NO SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OR DESIRES. HE IS SHORT, HAS THIN, GREYING HAIR AND USES GLASSES FOR READING. HE PRESENTS A BUSINESSLIKE AIR, BUT HAS A READY SMILE.

3. PROGRAM: STOITCHKOV ASKS THAT HIS PROGRAM BE ALONG LINES OF MULTI-REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECT (STATE 167040), EMPHASIZING PASSENGER TRANSPORT, HIS SPECIAL FIELD WITHIN MINISTRY, AND SECONDARILY EXPLOITATION OF CARGO TRANSPORTATION. STOITCHKOV IS MANAGER, BUT IS FAMILIAR WITH RELEVANT TECHNOLOGY. AMONG MORE SPECIFIC TOPICS STOITCHKOV MENTIONED MANAGEMENT OF TRANSPORT, INTER-RELATIONSHIPS AMONG VARIOUS TYPES OF TRANSPORT, TECHNICAL AND UNCLASSIFIED

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ORGANIZATIONAL QUESTIONS. HE COMMENTED BULGARIA IS EXPERIENCING

"DYNAMIC DEVELOPMENT" IN PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION. HE ASKED FOR WRITTEN MATERIALS (IN ENGLISH OR GERMAN) SO HE MAY PREPARE HIMSELF. SELECTION OF MATERIALS USED FOR MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECT WILL BE FINE.

4. OTHER: ASKED ABOUT WAYS HE WOULD LIKE TO SPEND HIS FREE TIME, INCLUDING CULTURAL INTERESTS, STOITCHKOV REPLIED THAT PASSENGER TRANSPORT IS HIS OVERRIDING SUBJECT OF INTEREST, AND THEN "IF TIME PERMITS, WITH PLEASURE....".

5. ACTIONS REQUESTED: A. IS JANUARY 12 ARRIVAL ACCEPTABLE? WILL REQUIRE INTERPRETER-ESCORT (SEPTTEL). B. PLEASE CABLE FISCAL DATA SO WE MAY ARRANGE TICKET PURCHASE THROUGH VIENNA, SINCE GTR'S NOT ACCEPTED BY LOCAL AGENT HERE. C. PLEASE SEND REQUESTED MATERIALS VIA AIR CHANNELS.
HERZ

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